

Hamilton Field, Athletic Field
North of State Access Road at B Street
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-CY

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
ICY-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

**HAMILTON FIELD
Athletic Field
(Facility No. 2032)**

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
ICY-

HABS No. CA-2398-CY

Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Athletic Field (Facility No. 2032) (north of State Access Road at B Street)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

Significance:

The World War II-era athletic field in the temporary housing area played a central role in the physical fitness and recreational programs for enlisted men and women at Hamilton. Prior to the expansion of the base, an earlier athletic field was located adjacent to the main base area; it was converted to a temporary quarters site just prior to the war. This is the only athletic field that currently remains at Hamilton; newer fields are located on base and are used for little league activities.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

This is the only historic athletic field currently remaining on the base; it is located directly east of the civil engineering group and just north of the State Access Road. The field included a softball diamond in the northwest corner and an oval running track to the east (now overgrown). Associated structures in place on the athletic field are the chain-link backstop and a deteriorated set of wooden bleachers. The stands were built first and consisted of two bleachers; one measures 270 feet long and the other measures 300 feet long. Both face the field. Floodlights on poles provided evening lighting.

Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

The field facilities were installed in 1945 and were one of four such complexes on base during the war. It is the only field remaining from that time.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

See the project Field Record, roll 40, exposures 1-2; roll 41, exposures 1-6.

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

Project Information:

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an effect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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Date prepared: July 1995

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Affiliation: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California

Date of photographs: May 1993

HAMILTON FIELD

Athletic Field (FAC.#2032)

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Skeet Range Road

Fence

Grass

Baseball Diamond

State Access Road

Aberdeen Road